

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

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R 081815Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY PORT AU PRINCE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9572

INFO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMCONSUL MONTREAL

AMCONSUL/QUEBEC 29

AMCONSUL TORONTO

C O N F I D E N T I A L PORT AU PRINCE 0814

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1 DECLAS 4/8/80

TAGS: PFOR, SCUL, HA

SUBJECT: PETER HALL'S DEPARTURE FROM HAITI

REF: STRASSER/CARBONE TELCON OF APRIL 8, 1975

1. CONTRARY TO WHAT MAY HAVE APPEARED IN U.S. MEDIA, LOCAL JOURNALIST (CANADIAN CITIZEN) PETER HALL WAS NOT REPEAT NOT DECLARED PERSONA NON GRATA IN HAITI. HOWEVER, HE WAS TOLD TO LEAVE HAITI BY INTERIOR SECRETARY BLANCHET ON THE GROUNDS THAT HAD NO RESIDENCE PERMIT, WHICH WAS TECHNICALLY CORRECT BUT DUE TO BLANCHET'S OWN REFUSAL TO GRANT IT. THOROUGHLY DEMORALIZED, ESPECIALLY SINCE HIS WIFE SANDRA (BRITISH CITIZEN) HAD BECOME ACUTELY FRIGHTENED OF BLANCHET, HALL SIMPLY ABANDONED HIS TOURIST-ORIENTED MONTHLY NEWSPAPER, NEWS OF HAITI, AND FLED HAITI APRIL 3 VIA CRUISE SHIP FOR MIAMI. HE HAS SINCE RADIO-TELEPHONED THE CANADIAN CHARGE D'AFFAIRES IN PORT AU PRINCE TO CONFIRM HIS AND HIS WIFE'S DEPARTURE.

2. THE CANADIAN CHARGE HAD ASKED OTTAWA'S APPROVAL TO TAKE UP THE HALLS' PLIGHT, AND SIMILAR PROBLEMS FACING CANADIANS IN HAITI, WITH PRESIDENT DUVALIER, BUT WAS TURNED DOWN. NEVERTHELESS, HE HOPES NATIONAL BANK PRESIDENT ANDRE MAY PASS THE WORD TO
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PRESIDENT DUVALIER. THE CHARGE IS HOLDING THE HALLS' PRIVATE CAR,

WHICH HE WILL TRY TO SELL FOR THEM, BUT OTHERWISE HE ADVISED HALL TO ENGAGE A HAITIAN LAWYER TO TRY TO SALVAGE WHAT HE COULD OF HALL'S INTEREST IN NEWS OF HAITI. THE CHARGE FEARS THAT INSTEAD HALL MAY ELECT TO WRITE EXPOSES NOT ONLY OF HIS DIFFICULTIES WITH INTERIOR SECRETARY BLANCHET, BUT ALSO FEED THE CANADIAN PRESS WITH WIDER RANGING CRITICISMS OF THE GOH DRAWN FROM HIS SIX YEARS OF EXPERIENCE HERE. THE AMCIT LOCAL STRINGER FOR THE U.S. WIRE SERVICES AND NETWORKS HAS MOST OF THE STORY, BUT IS AGONIZING OVER HOW TO REPORT IT WITHOUT RUNNING AFOUL OF BLANCHET. ISHAM

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